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ABSTRACT

This booklet contains examples of volunteer projects related to solid waste management as developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), whose mission is to protect human health and the natural environment. EPA's Office of Solid Waste (OSW) promotes volunteerism and community service programs for people of all ages. A variety of service projects are featured in this booklet. They include reuse, recycling, composting, and household hazardous waste projects. It is believed that one of the most powerful ways people learn about waste reduction, recycling, and composting is through hands-on experiences. (KHR)

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EPA

Volunteer for Change:

A Guide to Environmental Community Service

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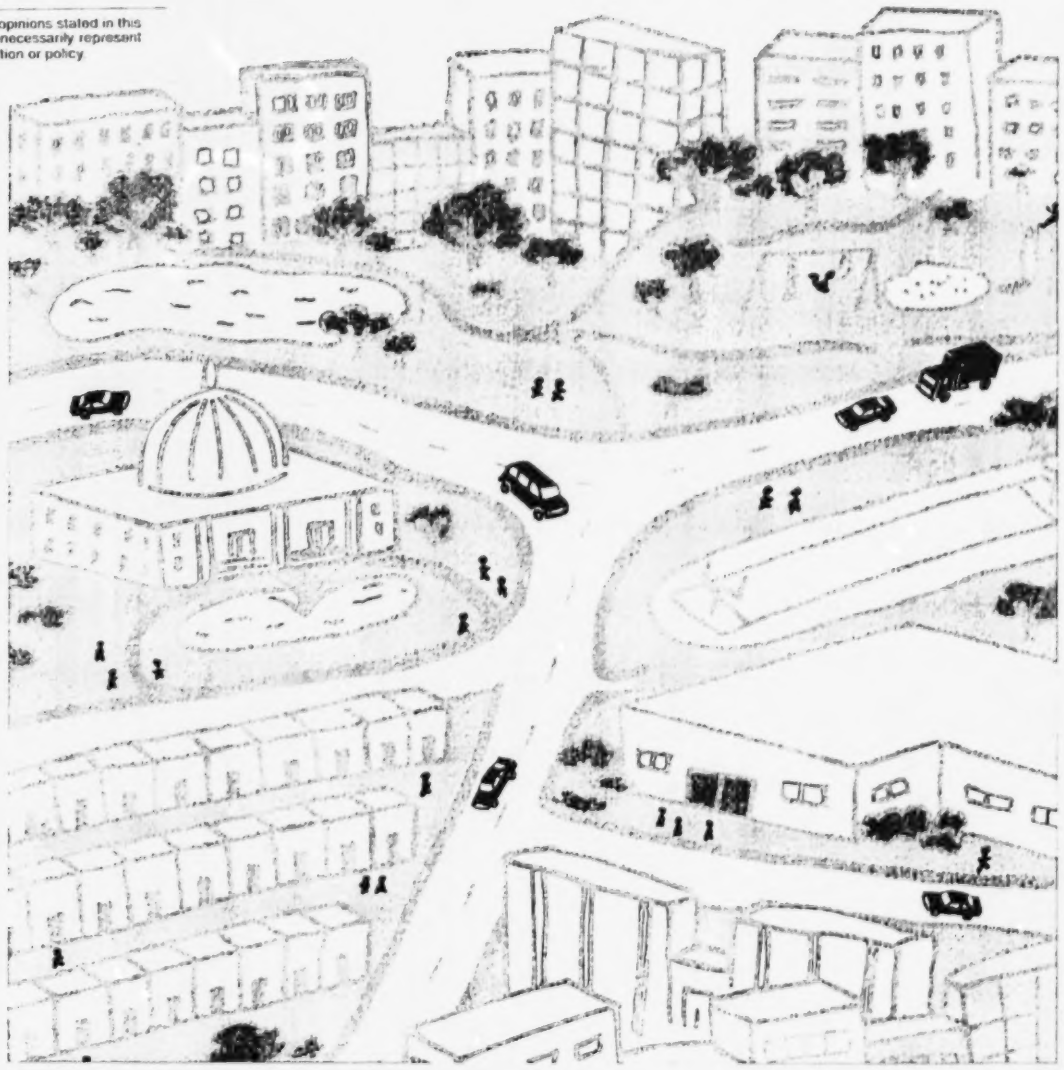

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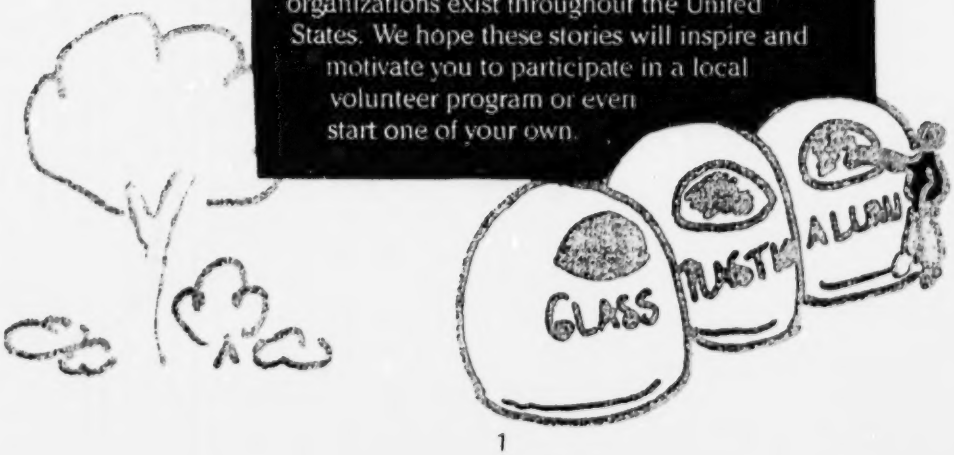
Welcome to the world of volunteerism and community service! Whether you're an experienced volunteer or looking to participate in service projects for the first time, many benefits and opportunities await you. Volunteerism provides people with the opportunity to enjoy new experiences, meet new people, learn new skills, and put ideas and talents to work. Most importantly, volunteerism allows people to make a difference in their community.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a federal government agency whose mission is to protect human health and the natural environment. EPA's Office of Solid Waste (OSW) is committed to ensuring the responsible management of hazardous and nonhazardous waste. OSW's goals are to conserve resources by preventing waste, reduce waste that cannot be prevented, and ensure that all waste is properly disposed of.

OSW is also committed to furthering its education and outreach efforts by promoting volunteerism and community service programs to people of all ages. Through a variety of service projects, people throughout the country are realizing that one of the most powerful ways to learn about waste reduction, recycling, and composting is through hands-on experience.

About This Booklet

This booklet contains just a few examples of volunteer projects related to solid waste management. Many other community groups and organizations exist throughout the United States. We hope these stories will inspire and motivate you to participate in a local volunteer program or even start one of your own.



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The ABCs of Volunteering

When selecting a volunteer opportunity, consider the following criteria:

- The types of activities are you good at and like to do.
- What you would most like to learn by volunteering.
- Whether you want an ongoing, regularly scheduled assignment, a short-term assignment, or a one-time assignment.
- Whether you want to work alone, with a group, or with a friend or family members.
- What kind of people you want to work with—both in terms of who is receiving services and who your co-workers might be.
- Whether you are willing to participate in a training course or want to start your volunteer work immediately.

If you've decided you want to help out with the issue of solid waste, including waste reduction, recycling, composting, or household hazardous waste, consider contacting the following types of organizations:

- Your municipality's solid waste management program, recycling centers, or special household hazardous waste collection sites.
- The Master Composter, Master Recycler, or Master Gardener program in your community.
- The 4-H or Cooperative Extension offices in your local community or your state.
- The local Volunteer Office in your community.
- Local college or university environmental groups.
- National environmental organizations with branches in your area.
- Local environmental groups.
- Organizations listed in the Resources section of this booklet.

To find these groups, use the local phone book or the Internet, call specific organizations and ask whether they are looking for volunteers, and check community bulletin boards, local newspapers, and specialty magazines.

One Student's Trash is Another Student's Treasure

University of Richmond: Richmond, Virginia

When Lisa Heller and her student volunteers at the University of Richmond organized their first "recycle sale" in 1999, they had no idea how popular it would be. What started as a small campus event has now blossomed into a national effort, with programs springing up at college campuses nationwide and the initiative being featured in *The New York Times* and *People* magazine.

Now operating under the guidance of Heller's nonprofit organization known as "Dump and Run," these volunteer-run events recover valuable items students hastily discard at the end of the school year and resell them to new students in the fall. "Merchandise" at these sales runs the gamut from televisions, VCRs, and computers to furniture, designer clothes, and unused toiletries. Profits from the sales, as well as any unsold items, are donated to charity.

Contact:

Dump and Run
Lisa Heller
P.O. Box 397
Brooksfield, MA 01506

Phone: 508 579-7188

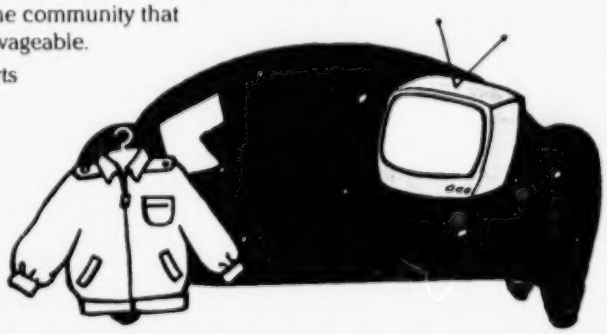
Web site: <www.dumpandrun.org>

E-mail: <info@dumpandrun.org>

Student volunteers print flyers to promote the event, place collection boxes in common areas, and use rental trucks to collect and transport the materials to a storage facility on campus. Volunteers sort donations into categories and then organize and hold the yard sale.

Although the program is enjoying great success and is normally well-received, student volunteers at Richmond pointed out several challenges:

- Many people assume that if items are trash to them, they're trash to everyone, and they don't bother to put perfectly good, useful items into the donation boxes.
- The most common item that students donate is clothes. It is important to educate the community that other items are also salvageable.
- The community supports the recycle sales, but some university public relations staff members might be sensitive to bad press about how wasteful their students are.



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Volunteers Save the Environment and Help the Disadvantaged

Learn Shop, Inc.: Montgomery County, Maryland

With the mad rush to leave school on the last day of classes, students often leave unneeded items in their lockers. To prevent these materials from ending up in landfills, 35 middle schools in Montgomery County, Maryland, agreed to participate in an annual effort to recover and reuse items abandoned in lockers and give them to needy students elsewhere.

Contact:

Rev. Kevin and Louise Newcomer
Learn Shop, Inc.
P.O. Box 1754
Wheaton, MD 20915-1754

Phone: 301 942-1074
Fax: 301 942-1329

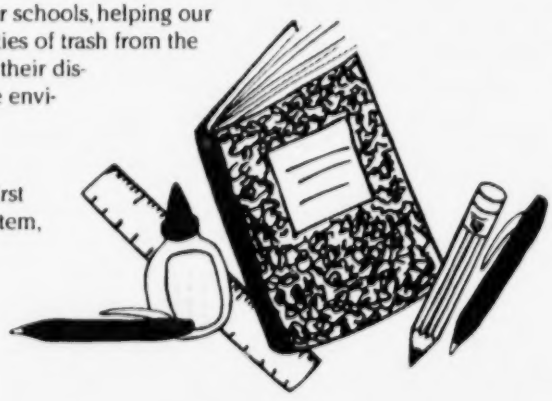
Web site: <www.learnshop.org>

Program organizer Louise Newcomer created the "Drive for Locker Supplies" program, which she sees as a creative way to address both environmental and educational issues. After the last day of classes in 1999, she organized local volunteers—including some students—to return to schools to clean out what remained in students' lockers. In the program's first year, volunteers collected an estimated $50,000 worth of notebooks, pencils, calculators, and other miscellaneous items, including a closet full of unclaimed coats.

The school system provides packaging supplies and storage facilities for the recovered items. Newcomer arranges to transport the usable goods to underprivileged students in other states. "Many people don't realize that schools less than an hour away do not have even the most basic items such as paper, pencils, and rulers," Newcomer said. Newcomer also sends some supplies to other countries, such as Nicaragua and the Phillippines.

"We're helping students in other schools, helping our own schools divert massive quantities of trash from the sanitation system—which reduces their disposal costs—and we're helping the environment by preventing waste," Newcomer said.

Although this endeavor is the first of its kind in any public school system, Newcomer believes the program could easily be replicated in schools across the country because they all experience the same glut of "trash" at the school year's end.



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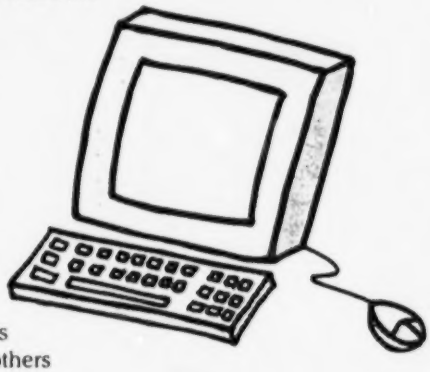
Refurbished and Reused Computers Improve Lives

Share the Technology: Rancocas, New Jersey

In 1995, Barry Cranmer wanted to donate a computer that he no longer needed instead of throwing it away. "It was a perfectly good machine," he said, "but I didn't know how to locate someone who would benefit from it." Believing others might be in the same situation, Cranmer started Share the Technology.



This project has two components. First, volunteers salvage used computers by repairing, upgrading, and donating them to nonprofit organizations, schools, the elderly, low-income families, and people with disabilities. A network of 20 volunteers operates in the group's New Jersey workshop. Once volunteers refurbish the computers, they work with recipient organizations to set up the equipment. Ultimately, Cranmer would like to establish a broader network of volunteers to provide in-depth training for recipients and others who lack basic computer skills.

The second component is a national database of people seeking and donating used equipment. "We're matchmakers—we give people the opportunity to find each other," Cranmer said. More than 2,400 individuals and organizations have posted donation requests to the database.

In addition to helping the environment, Share the Technology provides a broader social benefit. "Our volunteers help decrease the gap between the technological haves and have-nots by providing entry-level computers to needy organizations," Cranmer said.

Ironically, the greatest challenge the project faces stems from its success: lack of a permanent home. Due to the number of donations received, the organization requires additional space for processing and storing the equipment. "We're even turning down donations of Pentium computers," remarked Cranmer. Resolving this issue is a top priority for the organization, he said.

Contact:

Barry Cranmer
Share the Technology

Phone: 856 234-6156

Web site:
<www.sharetechnology.org>

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Aiding the Sick and Helping the Environment

The RACORSE Network and Home CARES: Oakland, California

As a surgical nurse in Oakland, California, Liisa Nenonen was dismayed by the amount of waste generated by the medical community and wondered how it could be recovered and reused. In 1994, Nenonen established RACORSE (Recycling, Allocation, and Conservation of Operating Room Supplies and Equipment).

One of the organization's most successful programs is Home CARES (Collection & Redistribution of Equipment and Supplies). Volunteers from this program collect new and used home health care and medical equipment and supplies donated by hospitals, doctors offices, and individuals—everything from hospital beds to walking canes. Nenonen and her volunteers then distribute these items to uninsured, disadvantaged, ill, and elderly people.

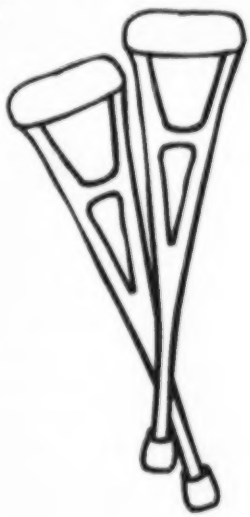
Contact:

Liisa Nenonen
RACORSE Network
2619 Broadway, Room 207
Oakland, CA 94612

Phone: 510 251-2273

According to Nenonen, the program's success lies in the quantity of supplies that exist and the lack of adequate disposal methods. Nenonen explained that once someone has recovered from an illness or died, many families are unsure of what to do with their loved one's medical equipment. Many popular donation agencies frequently will not accept medical equipment. Because such a great demand exists, Home CARES is inundated with supplies.

A network of volunteers help make Home CARES a success. Some manage donation sites, while others help run the office. In addition, more than 300 occupational therapists volunteer on behalf of their clients to pick up equipment from the donation center. In the future, Nenonen hopes additional volunteers will assist picking up and delivering equipment.



In addition to running the Home CARES program, RACORSE also donates excess medical supplies to international relief organizations and recovers discarded surgical containers for art classes in inner-city schools in a project that Nenonen calls "School Saves."

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Creative Reuse Benefits Community

The Resource Center: Chicago, Illinois

Whether it's glass, rubber, wood, paper, pencils, or a variety of other materials, Chicago communities depend on the Creative Reuse Warehouse—staffed by volunteers—to meet their art supply needs in an environmentally friendly fashion.

Donated primarily by nearby industries that would otherwise throw these items away, the art supplies are usually leftover, imperfect, or overstocked items. Volunteers play a key role in operating this waste prevention program by picking up the donated materials and transporting them back to the warehouse in addition to recording, stocking, and shelving all donated items.

Contact:

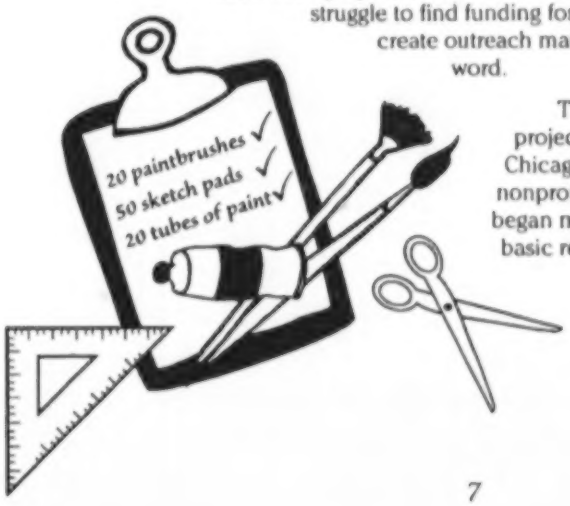
Kristine Greiber
Creative Reuse Warehouse
721 W. O'Brien Street
Chicago, IL 60607

Phone: 312 421-3640

Web site: <www.resourcecenterchicago.org>

The demand for these materials—many of which would be dramatically more expensive in art supply stores—is immense. "Teachers and artists are most grateful for this opportunity and obtain a large percentage of their supplies from us, but even other members of the community benefit from the materials we offer," staff member Kristine Greiber explained.

Despite the success of the program, the warehouse faces several challenges, many of them financial. The nominal fees received for materials are absorbed by operational costs. The warehouse continues to struggle to find funding for a permanent home and to create outreach materials to help spread the word.



The warehouse is one of eight projects currently run by the Chicago Resource Center, an area nonprofit organization. The center began more than 30 years ago with a basic recycling program—the oldest and longest-running recycling program in Chicago.

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Kentucky Homemakers Go Back to School

Allen County Homemakers Association: Allen County, Kentucky

Volunteers from the Allen County Homemakers Association (ACHA) worked with its environmental committee to educate K-5 students about recycling during Kentucky's 1999 Clean-Up Week.

A team of five retired teachers delivered short presentations on the benefits of recycling to more than 50 classrooms and 1,500 students during the week. They also explained the types of materials that could be recycled locally. In addition, volunteers taught the students about the value of reusing materials, including the importance of sharing items with others, particularly those in need.

The students got an A for their efforts. Through informal classroom evaluations, 90 percent of students demonstrated an increased awareness of the importance of recycling and could name the types of recyclables collected at the local recycling center.

Contact:

Janet Johnson
Allen County Extension Service
201 W. Main Street-Courthouse
Scottsville, KY 42164-0355

Phone: 270 237-3146

Volunteers were confident that their reuse and recycling messages would extend beyond the classroom, too. "The kids get so excited," said volunteer Patty Hogue. "They will go home and talk to their parents about recycling tonight." The homemakers also prepared parents' packets consisting of free collection bags and an informational brochure on recycling.

In addition, local newspapers, television and radio helped publicize the event, further spreading the recycling message throughout the county. The extensive media coverage also raised expectations that the program will be continued next year.

In addition to visiting local schools, ACHA members recently organized a community "Recycling Days" to further boost collection efforts. More than 130 volunteers helped plan and conduct the event, during which residents competed to see who could accumulate the most recyclables in the county's blue bags.

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Recycling Aluminum Cans Helps Students Succeed

Cans for Kids: Southport, North Carolina

In 1995, Linda Vereen had an idea to motivate her community, save the environment, and provide an incentive for local students to stay in school. The project itself was not unusual—collecting and selling aluminum cans—but Vereen never imagined the project would be so successful.

The project began as a small effort—Vereen collected one bag of cans from her neighbors to recycle. Word spread and Vereen soon became inundated with cans. After approaching a local aluminum manufacturer, Vereen secured large donation containers and arranged for the company to buy back the cans from the community.

Within a short time, Vereen and her growing network of supporters collected 250,000 cans. Since the project's inception, more than 7 million cans have been recycled and "Cans for Kids" has raised $60,000 for local students.

Contact:

Linda Vereen
Cans for Kids

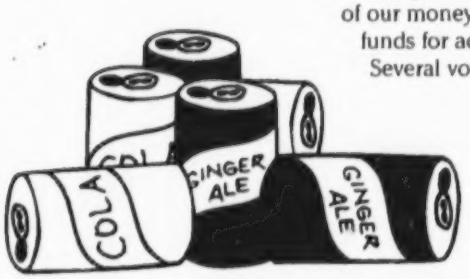
Phone: 910 278-9801

Web site:
<www.cans4kids.com>

All of the money raised from this venture is donated via scholarships to graduating high school seniors. According to Vereen, "The scholarship is intended to encourage students to stay in school and inspire them to continue on to college."

But the benefits of the program are even more widespread. Originally, the county provided a recycling collection bin for the community, but Cans for Kids offered more bins in more accessible places, superceding the need for the county's service and saving the county money

Despite the apparent success of the program, there have been many challenges, Vereen said. "Since we give all of our money to the students, we don't have any funds for advertising and outreach," she said. Several volunteer clearinghouses are working to change that by helping the organization locate volunteers to design outreach materials, including a revamped Web site.



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Volunteers Demonstrate Innovative Ways to Recycle

Keep America Beautiful Midlands: Columbia, South Carolina

Volunteers for the Midlands division of Keep America Beautiful (KAB) engage in a number of creative projects designed to reduce the amount of waste deposited in local landfills. Two of the most successful examples are featured below.

Telephone Book Recycling

For the past 10 years, volunteers have participated in a program to recycle used telephone books at the beginning of each year. KAB established an agreement with a local merchant that recycles the books into insulation, wallboard, and other packing materials. In 2000, volunteers collected more than 20 tons of books.

KAB Midlands Director Mary-Pat Balbauf explained that since the beginning of the initiative, volunteers have played an integral role in the program. They help publicize the event and coordinate pickups and drop-offs of the books.

The only difficulty Balbuaf encounters with this project is the need to prevent the telephone books from getting wet. "Once they're wet, they're useless to the company," she said.

Contact:

Keep America Beautiful Midlands
930 Richland Street
P.O. Box 1360
Columbia, SC 29202

Phone: 803 733-1139
Fax: 803 733-1149

Web site:
<www.kabmidlands.org>

Grinding of the Greens

In most communities, people simply discard their Christmas trees at the end of the holiday season. KAB Midlands volunteers, however, devised a way to recycle and reuse them. Each Christmas, volunteers help collect discarded trees at several area drop-off sites. The trees are then ground into mulch and made available to the public free of charge.

During this event, volunteers help direct traffic through drop-off sites, load mulch into people's cars, and help the grinders. Balbauf estimated that more than 120 volunteers assist at all the sites.

During the program's 7-year history, more than 100,000 trees have been diverted from local landfills. According to Balbauf, that's equivalent to the space occupied by 44 average-size homes.

Balbauf is extremely pleased with the success of both of these programs and believes they can be replicated across the country. "They are a great way to educate people about recycling the types of items most wouldn't normally consider recyclable," she said.

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Master Composters Provide Valuable Service

Alameda County Waste Management Authority: Alameda County, California

Alameda County offers its residents a variety of opportunities to "dig in" and become experts in the art and science of composting. Members of the community have shown particular interest in the Master Composter Program. In 8 years, the program has trained more than 200 community compost trainers from all ages and backgrounds.

Master Composters receive training in home-composting, organic gardening, and public speaking by participating in classroom presentations, field trips, and hands-on learning experiences such as building compost bins.

Before they can become certified as Master Composters, volunteers perform more than 50 hours of community service. The program requires that participants design and implement their own community outreach project. From building compost piles in community gardens, to teaching children about decomposition and setting up projects to recycle institutional food scraps, volunteers work on a grassroots level to educate others in the community.

According to the county, the average home composter recycles between 600 and 750 pounds of material per year that would otherwise end up in a landfill. According to program organizer Jennifer Tetrine, home composting is one of the most cost-effective ways to keep organic materials out of landfills because it requires no mechanical collection, processing, or transportation.

Contact:

Jennifer Tetrine
Alameda County
Waste Management Authority
Source Reduction &
Recycling Board
777 Davis Street, Suite 100
San Leandro, CA 94577

Phone: 510 614-1699
Fax: 510 614-1698

Web site: <www.stopwaste.org/mcp.html>

The Master Composter Program is part of a larger home composting initiative sponsored by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and Recycling Board. The county promotes composting at home by offering free classes, low-cost compost bins, and compost demonstration gardens. Since 1991, Alameda's composting program has educated more than 13,000 adults and more than 38,000 school children and has sold more than 42,000 compost bins.

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Evergreen Students Turn Garbage Into Gold

The Evergreen State College: Olympia, Washington

A group of dedicated volunteers at Evergreen State College successfully launched the school's first composting initiative in 1998. Today, the Evergreen Compost Project, which collects and processes organic wastes generated on campus, is still run entirely by student volunteers.

Students performed all the legwork to establish a composting facility on the campus, including:

- Facilitating forums to evaluate residents' needs.
- Characterizing the campus' organic waste stream.
- Preparing a cost analysis of various composting options and comparing them to current landfill practices.
- Securing the funding to construct a permanent on-site composting facility.

The initiative required students to work with many different departments on campus, but this coordination ultimately enabled the volunteers to address the specific needs of each group and design a more holistic system. For example, the Housing Facilities Department provided materials and advice on how to work with other campus representatives. The Facilities, Grounds and Maintenance Department provided waste disposal records and information to help students conduct the cost analysis.

Contact:

The Evergreen State College
Community Gardens Office
2700 Evergreen Parkway, NW.
Olympia, WA 98505

Phone: 360 866-6000 x6145

Web site: www.evergreen.edu

Once students established the groundwork, they worked to educate and involve school administrators, department officials, housing residents, and food service employees in implementing the project and ensuring its success. Volunteers provided each campus housing resident with a "How to Compost at Evergreen" pamphlet and conducted door-to-door visits to answer questions and evaluate the program's effectiveness.

In addition to implementing the on-campus program, the student volunteers have held composting workshops and conducted outreach to neighboring communities.

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Grassroots Efforts Blossom Into County-Sponsored Program

City of Tucson/Pima County Household Hazardous Waste Program: Tucson, Arizona

Residents from the city of Tucson and the larger area of Pima County, Arizona, are more than just participants in the city's recycling program—they *are* the recycling program. Not only did volunteers in this community start the initial recycling program, but they also initiated a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection program.

The idea for HHW collection began in Tucson in 1986 when a group of citizen volunteers joined together to protect children's health and the environment from hazardous materials. The volunteers held their first collection in the parking lot of the Tucson Convention Center.

Due to the overwhelming participation and interest in the program, the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality stepped in to lend support and launched the official HHW program in 1989. The county created several permanent staff positions to operate the program, and in 1990, it opened a permanent collection facility for the community. To further increase participation, the county later opened several satellite collection sites throughout the Tucson metropolitan area.

Volunteers still play a vital role in implementing the program. In fact, in recent years, more than 170 volunteers participated—either by greeting people at the collection sites, helping people unload their vehicles, or processing materials for recycling, reuse, redistribution, and safe treatment and disposal. In addition to their on-site work, volunteers provide education programs to public school children and civic groups. By encouraging people to take leftover HHW to collection sites for recycling, reuse, redistribution, or proper disposal, and educating people about the use of safer alternatives whenever possible, volunteers try to instill a responsible approach to managing HHW.

Contact:

Frank Bonea
City of Tucson/Pima County
Household Hazardous Waste
Program
130 W. Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701-1317

Phone: 520 740-3340

Web site:
www.deq.co.pima.az.us/
waste/househol.htm

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Generations Unite for Spring House "Greening"

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Spokane County: Spokane, Washington

It isn't easy being green—especially for retired people and seniors. That's why the Retired and Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Spokane County mobilized volunteers to educate and assist seniors and disabled individuals with proper disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW).

Contact:

Susan Russell
RSVP of Spokane County
507 N. Harvard
Spokane, WA 99201-0898

Phone: 509 344-7787
Fax: 509 343-4096

Web site:
www.ymcaspokane.org/rsvp.htm

E-mail:
rsvp@ymcaspokane.org

According to RSVP coordinator Susan Russell, seniors generally have the largest accumulation of HHW because they frequently remain at the same residence for many years and might be unable to transport this waste easily to a collection site. Accumulating these products presents environmental and safety hazards, including accidental poisoning and fire damage.

In response to this situation, RSVP teamed up with the county health and solid waste departments to sponsor the first "Spring House Greening." An intergenerational team of RSVP members worked in conjunction with other volunteers to inform elderly residents about identifying HHW. During the "greening" event, volunteers visited homes and collected common household wastes such as batteries, antifreeze, insecticides, paints, cleaners, and disinfectants. RSVP's 2000 event reached 9,000 households and 70,000 people. Volunteers collected 2.5 tons of HHW, or about 9,000 items, including 718 gallons of paint and 25 car batteries from 150 households.

The Spring House Greening succeeded not only because of the number of items collected door-to-door, but also because of the number and diversity of people dropping off HHW at collection sites in the weeks following the event and the number of people calling the HHW hotline for information increased substantially.

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Resources

Action Without Borders
350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6614
New York, NY 10118
Phone: 212 843-3973
Fax: 212 564-3377
<www.idealist.org>

This organization maintains an Internet database, Idealist, which currently boasts the most detailed community of nonprofit and volunteering resources on the Web. Information is provided by 20,000 organizations in 140 countries. Volunteers can search for opportunities based on a variety of criteria, including their area of interest, geographic location, or the duration of time they are available.

Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL)
37 Temple Place, Suite 401
Boston, MA 02111
Phone: 617 695-2665
Fax: 617 695-0022
<www.cool2serve.org>

Founded in 1984, COOL is a national nonprofit organization devoted to the education and empowerment of college students to strengthen the nation through community service. COOL offers a database of searchable volunteer projects, as well as resources, conferences, and scholarships for volunteers.

Citizens' Environmental Coalition
33 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12210
Phone: 518 462-5527
Fax: 518 465-8349
<www.cectoxic.org>

The Citizens' Environmental Coalition is a statewide environmental organization that aims to eliminate pollution in the state of New York. Volunteers work to empower, educate, and assist others who are concerned about environmental problems and to eliminate solid waste and create healthier communities.

City Cares
1605 Peachtree Street, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone: 404 875-7334
Fax: 404 253-1020
<www.citycares.org>

Local Cares organizations were formed to make volunteering possible for even the busiest individual. In cities large and small, 22 Cares groups have been established, and four more are currently being formed.

Corporation for National Service
1201 New York Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC 20525
Phone: 202 606-5000
<www.cns.gov>

National service partnerships offer opportunities for businesses, foundations, non-

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profits, educational institutions, local and state governments, and others to extend their reach and further their effect on communities. The Corporation for National Service currently has three main service initiatives—Learn and Serve America, AmeriCorps, and the National Senior Service Corps—as well partnerships with other national organizations.

Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement (EASI)

P.O. Box 250
Catlett, VA 22019-0250
Phone: 540 788-3274
Fax: 540 788-9301
<www.easi.org>

EASI's mission is to build, promote, and utilize the environmental ethic, expertise, and commitment of older adults to expand citizen involvement in protecting and caring for the environment. In addition to providing information on senior environmental programs, EASI publishes a quarterly newsletter as well as a resource guide to national projects.

The Heart of America Foundation

201 Massachusetts Avenue, NE.
Suite C5
Washington, DC 2002
Phone: 202 546-3256
Fax: 202 546-3257
<www.heartofamerica.org>

The Heart of America Foundation is a national humanitarian network that celebrates, honors, and empowers both young people and adults. One of their initiatives, Heart Corps, is a college scholarship program that rewards students with financial credits for their future education based on time volunteered for community service. Heart Corps gives students an opportunity to nourish their self-esteem, improve their neighborhoods, and earn financial credits toward their education through serving their communities.

Keep America Beautiful (KAB)

1010 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06901
Phone: 202 323-8987
Fax: 203 325-9199
<www.kab.org>

KAB is a nonprofit organization whose network of local, state, and international affiliate programs educates individuals about litter prevention and ways to reduce, reuse, recycle, and properly manage waste materials. Their programs focus on enabling local volunteers to acquire the skills, tools, and resources to work together in building quality communities. Through partnerships and strategic alliances with citizens, businesses, and government, KAB's programs motivate millions of volunteers annually to clean up, beautify, and improve their neighborhoods, thereby creating healthier, safer, and more liveable community environments.

National Wildlife Federation (NWF)

Campus Ecology Program
11100 Wildlife Center Drive
Reston, VA 20190-5362
Phone: 703 438-6000
<www.nwf.org/campusecology/index.html>

Since its founding in 1989, NWF's Campus Ecology Program has become a cornerstone conservation initiative in higher education. The program works to transform the nation's college campuses into living models of an ecologically sustainable society, to train a new generation of environmental leaders, and to ensure a strong future for America's environmental movement. Its primary goal is to reduce the need to "reinvent the wheel" of environmental action from campus to campus by communicating to campus organizers what other environmental leaders have already learned. NWF's Web site features a "yearbook" of successful programs and activities.

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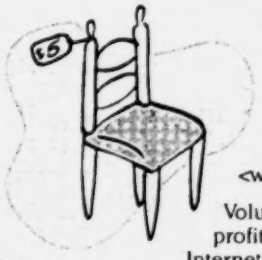
Points of Light Foundation
1400 I Street, NW., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202 729-8000
Fax: 202 729-8100
<www.pointsoflight.org>

The Points of Light Foundation's mission is to engage more people more effectively in volunteer community service to help solve serious social problems. The Foundation, among other things, assists employers in developing workplace volunteer programs and helps develop youth service leaders and youth service programs.

Seattle Works
2123 East Union
Seattle, WA 98122
Phone: 206 324-0808
Fax: 206 324-0817
<www.seattleworks.org>



Seattle Works was founded in 1989 by a group of young adults who saw the need to involve their peers in community service. The organization has since developed several innovative volunteer programs that mobilize people to get involved in their community. Seattle Works operates on the premise that people in their 20s and 30s want to give back to their communities, but often just don't know how or where to do it most effectively.

Student Conservation Association (SCA)
P.O. Box 550
Charlestown, NH 03603
Phone: 603 543-1700
Fax: 603 543-1828
<www.sca-inc.org>

SCA is America's largest and oldest provider of national and community conservation service opportunities, outdoor education, and career training for youth. SCA volunteers and interns annually perform more than 1 million hours of conservation service in national parks, forests, refuges, and urban areas in all 50 states.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Volunteer Clearinghouse
Phone: 800 865-8337
<www.orn.usace.army.mil/volunteer>

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Volunteer Clearinghouse is a nationwide, toll-free hotline for individuals who want to volunteer their time with the Corps. By calling the hotline, a potential volunteer can express interest in any Corps project nationwide. The Clearinghouse gives the individual a point of contact for the area they have requested, as well as written information about the area's volunteer opportunities.

VolunteerMatch
385 Grove Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: 415 241-6872
Fax: 415 241-6869
<www.volunteermatch.org>

VolunteerMatch, a service of the nonprofit group ImpactOnline, uses the Internet to help individuals nationwide find volunteer opportunities. VolunteerMatch's online database allows volunteers to search thousands of one-time and ongoing opportunities by ZIP code, category, and date.

Youth Serve America (YSA)
1101 15th Street NW.
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202 296-2992
<www.servenet.org>

YSA is a resource center and an alliance of more than 200 organizations committed to increasing the quantity and quality of opportunities for young Americans to serve locally, nationally, or globally. YSA's mission is to strengthen the effectiveness, sustainability, and scale of the youth service movement. YSA believes a strong youth service movement will create healthy communities and foster citizenship, knowledge, and personal development of young people.

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Additional Solid Waste Resources

EPA's Office of Solid Waste
<www.epa.gov/osw>

EPA's Office of Solid Waste provides detailed information on how to reduce, reuse, and recycle as well as on composting and source reduction. The site also provides an extensive list of links to relevant sites.

America Recycles Day
<www.americarecyclesday.org>

America Reycles Day is a national grassroots campaign dedicated to increasing the purchase of recycled-content products and recycling throughout America.

Cornell Composting
<www.cfe.cornell.edu/compost/composting_homepage.html>

This Web site offers a comprehensive listing of composting resources as well as examples and case studies from Cornell's Waste Management Institute.

Recycler's World
<www.recycle.net>

This site is a worldwide trading center for information related to secondary or recyclable commodities, byproducts, and used and surplus items or materials. The site also offers a calendar of events, a listing of associations, and a publications list.

The Compost Resource Page
<www.oldgrowth.org/compost>

This site offers a detailed overview of composting and a list of additional resources on home composting and vermicomposting, as well as composting toilets.

The Master Composter Site
<www.mastercomposter.com>

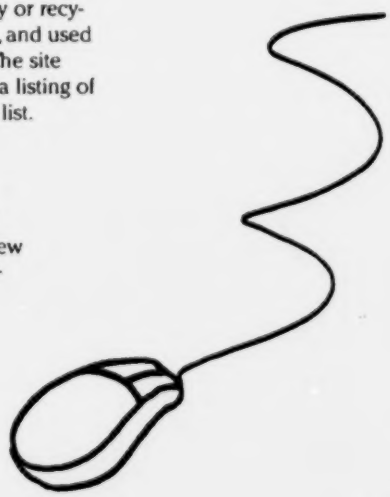
Visitors to this site can learn everything they might ever want to know about making and using compost. The information is geared toward home composters and includes directions on how to build a compost pile and offers contact information for local composting programs.

EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program (EPP)
<www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp>

EPP is a nationwide program that encourages and assists executive agencies in the purchasing of environmentally preferable products and services. This site includes tools to implement EPP, successful stories and events, and an EPP discussion section.

Earth's 911
<www.1800cleanup.org>

This site can help you locate local environmental information and recycling centers for all types of recyclables based on ZIP code.



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Glossary

Backyard composting: The practice of collecting leftover kitchen scraps and yard trimmings for decomposition in a controlled compost pile. Backyard composters can use their compost as a soil enhancement for their gardens.

Closing the loop: Purchasing products made from recycled materials. Recycling is a cycle that involves collecting recyclables, manufacturing them into new products, and then buying products made with recycled content.

Compost: A crumbly, earthy, sweet-smelling mixture of decomposing organic matter (e.g., leaves, food scraps) that is often used to improve the texture, water-retaining capacity, and aeration of soil.

Household hazardous waste (HHW): Small quantities of unused or leftover hazardous products used in the home that become waste. Paints, pesticides, and some cleaners are examples of household hazardous waste. Caution must be taken when handling, storing, or disposing of these products.

Landfill: Disposal sites where solid wastes are deposited, compacted to the smallest practical volume, and covered by soil or other material applied at the end of each operating day. Hazardous wastes are taken to special disposal sites selected and designed to minimize the chance of releasing hazardous substances into the environment.

Municipal solid waste: Wastes such as durable goods, disposable goods, containers and packaging, food scraps, yard trimmings, and miscellaneous inorganic wastes from households, certain commercial establishments (e.g., businesses or restaurants), institutions (e.g., schools or hospitals), and some industrial sources. It does not include nonhazardous industrial wastes, sewage, agricultural waste, hazardous waste, or construction and demolition waste. Also known as garbage, trash, refuse, or debris.

Recyclable: Material that still has useful physical or chemical properties after serving its original purpose and can be reused or remanufactured to make new products. Plastic, paper, glass, steel and aluminum cans, and used oil are examples of recyclable materials.

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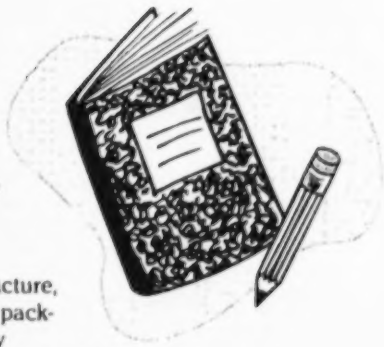

Recycling: Collecting, sorting, processing, and converting materials that would have been thrown away into raw materials used to make the same or new products.

Source reduction: Any change in the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials or products (including packaging) to reduce their amount or toxicity before they become municipal solid waste. Source reduction also refers to the reuse of products or materials.

Trash: Items that are discarded because they no longer work and are uneconomical or impossible to reuse, repair, or recycle.

Vermicomposting/vermiculture: A method of composting using a special kind of earthworm known as a red wiggler (Elsenia fetida), which eats its weight in organic matter each day. In time, the organic material is replaced with worm castings, a rich brown matter that is an excellent natural plant food.

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